

I wanted to share with you an important first step in making Congress more transparent and fiscally responsible. Today, with my full support, the House of Representatives passed a new set of procedural rules that will make it easier to cut government spending and end the tax-and-spend mentality that has been all too typical of Congress in recent years. The centerpiece of these changes is a “cut-as-you-go” rule that prevents the House from considering bills that increase federal spending on entitlement programs unless they cut spending on other federal programs by an equal or greater amount.

The new House rules also include a provision that will stop the use of budgetary gimmicks that have been used to hide the real cost of legislation. The cost of a bill will be measured over a 50-year period, instead of the current 10-year requirement. The health care bill that passed last year was full of gimmicks so that it would appear to reduce the deficit, even though its long-term costs will be astronomical. ObamaCare serves as a chief example of these budget gimmicks. Americans can't play these games with their household budgets, and neither should Congress. In addition to these new rules, the House has adopted a [resolution](#) to reduce the operating budgets of House committees, leadership offices, and individual member offices. These budget cuts will save taxpayers an estimated \$35 million in the first year alone.

With the federal deficit topping \$1 trillion for the third straight year in 2010, these rule changes are a first step towards getting our nation's budget in order, but much work remains. I believe we must take serious action to get these deficits under control if we wish to provide a better future for our children and grandchildren. With the adoption of these new rules for the 112th Congress, I believe we can stop the spending spree in Washington and get back on the path to fiscal responsibility.